

Application Serial No.: 08/749,766
Attorney Docket No. 23435-004
In Response to Office Action mailed October 29, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A sound system for capturing and reproducing sounds produced by a plurality of sound sources, comprising:
 - means for separately receiving sounds produced by the plurality of sound sources;
 - means for converting the separately received sounds to a plurality of separate audio signals without mixing the audio signals;
 - means for separately storing the plurality of separate audio signals without mixing the audio signals;
 - means for separately retrieving over separate signal paths the stored audio signals;
 - an amplification network comprising a plurality of amplifier means under common control, with separate amplifier means in the separate signal paths for separately amplifying each of the separate audio signals, each of the amplifier means comprising one or more amplifier elements;
 - a loudspeaker network comprising a plurality of loudspeaker means, with separate loudspeaker means in the separate signal paths for reproducing the separately amplified audio signals; and
 - a dynamic control means for individually controlling each of the amplifier means to enable automatic simultaneous control over the amplifier means the relative amplitude of the separate audio signals for a given power level based on predetermined criteria.

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2 – 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A system for reproducing separately stored audio signals

corresponding to sounds produced by a plurality of sound sources, comprising:

~~means for separately receiving a plurality of retrieving over separate signal paths the stored audio signals produced by the plurality of sound sources without mixing the audio signals, each receiving means being associated with a single sound source;~~

~~an amplification network comprising a plurality of amplifier means under common control, with separate amplifier means in the separate signal paths for separately simultaneously amplifying each of the plurality of separate audio signals, each of the amplifier means comprising one or more amplifier elements;~~

~~a loudspeaker network comprising a plurality of loudspeaker means, with separate loudspeaker means in the separate signal paths for separately reproducing each of the separately amplified audio signals; and~~

~~a dynamic control means for individually controlling each of the amplifier means and individual elements of the amplifier means to enable automatic simultaneous control over the amplifier means the relative amplitudes of the separate audio signals for a given system power level based on predetermined criteria.~~

30. (Currently Amended) A method of recording and reproducing sound comprising the steps of:

capturing a plurality of sounds from a plurality of sound sources;

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converting each of the plurality of sounds to an audio signal;

simultaneously and separately recording each of the audio signals;

separately retrieving each of the audio signals;

~~separately amplifying each of the plurality of audio signals;~~

separately supplying each of the audio signals to a loudspeaker system to reproduce the original plurality of sounds; and

~~a dynamically control means for individually controlling each of the audio signals to enable automatic simultaneous control over the audio signals the relative amplitudes of the separate audio signals for a given system power level based on predetermined criteria.~~

31 – 55. (Cancelled)

56. (New) The sound system of claim 1, wherein the sound sources produce sounds having different sonic characteristics and each of said loudspeaker means is customized according to one or more sonic characteristic of the sounds corresponding to the audio signals on its signal path.

57. (New) The sound system of claim 56 wherein the at least one sonic characteristic comprises a frequency range of the sounds produced by the corresponding sound source.

58. (New) The sound system of claim 56 wherein the at least one sonic characteristic comprises a directivity pattern of the sounds produced by the corresponding sound source.

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59. (New) The sound system of claim 56 wherein the at least one sonic characteristic comprises a frequency range and a directivity pattern of the sounds produced by the corresponding sound source.

60. (New) The sound system of claim 56, wherein at least one of the loudspeaker means comprises two or more loudspeaker elements, and customization of the at least one loudspeaker means includes selecting loudspeaker elements based on frequency characteristics of the sounds to be reproduced by the at least one loudspeaker means.

61. (New) The sound system of claim 56, wherein at least one of the loudspeaker means comprises two or more loudspeaker elements, and customization of the at least one loudspeaker means includes arranging loudspeaker elements based on directivity pattern characteristics of the sounds to be reproduced by the at least one loudspeaker means.

62. (New) The sound system of claim 56, wherein at least one of the loudspeaker means comprises two or more loudspeaker elements, and customization of the at least one loudspeaker means includes selecting loudspeaker elements based on frequency characteristics of the sounds to be reproduced by the at least one loudspeaker means and arranging loudspeaker elements based on directivity pattern characteristics of the sounds to be reproduced by the at least one loudspeaker means.

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63. (New) The sound system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the loudspeaker means comprises two or more loudspeaker elements and the loudspeaker elements are controlled by the dynamic control means.

64. (New) The sound system of claim 1 further comprising means for selectively enabling a user to elect to intentionally group together audio signals from two or more sound sources for playback over a common signal path.

65. (New) The sound system of claim 1 wherein two or more sound sources may be separately stored but intentionally played back over a common signal path.

66. (New) The sound system of claim 1 wherein the sound sources produce sounds having sonic characteristics and wherein two or more sound sources having similar characteristics may be separately received, converted and stored but intentionally mixed together during playback and passed through a common loudspeaker means.

67. (New) The sound system of claim 1 wherein the sound sources produce sounds having different sonic characteristics and at least one of said amplification means is customized according to one or more sonic characteristics of the sounds corresponding to the audio signals on its signal path.

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68. (New) The sound system of claim 1 wherein the sound sources produce sounds having different sonic characteristics and each of said amplifier means is customized according to one or more sonic characteristics of the sounds corresponding to the audio signals on its signal path.

69. (New) The sound system of claim 1 wherein each of the amplifier means and loudspeaker means are under common control of the dynamic control means.

70. (New) The sound system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the amplifier means comprises more than one amplifier element in a signal path.

71. (New) The sound system of claim 70 wherein the more than one amplifier elements are customized based on characteristics of the audio signals to be amplified by the at least one amplifier means.

72. (New) The sound system of claim 70 wherein the amplifier elements are separately controllable by the dynamic controller.

73. (New) The sound system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the amplifier means, comprises more than one group of amplifier elements.

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74. (New) The sound system of claim 73 wherein the groups of amplifier elements are customized based on characteristics of the audio signals to be amplified by the at least one amplifier means.

75. (New) The sound system of claim 73 wherein the groups of amplifier elements are separately controllable by the dynamic control means.

76. (New) The sound system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the amplifier means comprises more than one amplifier element in a signal path, wherein the more than one amplifier elements are customized based on characteristics of the audio signals to be amplified by the at least one amplifier means and the amplifier elements are separately controllable by the dynamic control means.

77. (New) The sound system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the amplifier means, comprises more than one group of amplifier elements, the groups of amplifier elements are customized based on characteristics of the audio signals to be amplified by the at least one amplifier means and the groups of amplifier elements are separately controllable by the dynamic control means.

78. (New) The sound system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the amplifier means comprises more than one amplifier element and the dynamic control means controls the amplifier means by selectively turning on or off individual amplifier elements.

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79. (New) The sound system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the amplifier means comprises more than one group of amplifier element and the dynamic control means controls the amplifier means by selectively turning on or off individual groups of amplifier elements or individual amplifier elements within a group.

80. (New) The sound system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the amplifier means comprises more than one amplifier element in a signal path, wherein the more than one amplifier elements are customized based on characteristics of the audio signals to be amplified by the at least one amplifier means and the amplifier elements are separately controllable by the dynamic control means and wherein the sound sources produce sounds having different sonic characteristics and each of said loudspeaker means is customized according to one or more sonic characteristic of the sounds corresponding to the audio signals on its signal path.

81. (New) The sound system of claim 1 wherein the audio signals are stored on a common recording medium.

82. (New) The sound system of claim 29, wherein the sound sources produce sounds having different sonic characteristics and each of said loudspeaker means is customized according to one or more sonic characteristic of the sounds corresponding to the audio signals on its signal path.

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83. (New) The sound system of claim 82 wherein the at least one sonic characteristic comprises a frequency range of the sounds produced by the corresponding sound source.

84. (New) The sound system of claim 82 wherein the at least one sonic characteristic comprises a directivity pattern of the sounds produced by the corresponding sound source.

85. (New) The sound system of claim 82 wherein the at least one sonic characteristic comprises a frequency range and a directivity pattern of the sounds produced by the corresponding sound source.

86. (New) The sound system of claim 82, wherein at least one of the loudspeaker means comprises two or more loudspeaker elements, and customization of the at least one loudspeaker means includes selecting loudspeaker elements based on frequency characteristics of the sounds to be reproduced by the at least one loudspeaker means.

87. (New) The sound system of claim 82, wherein at least one of the loudspeaker means comprises two or more loudspeaker elements, and customization of the at least one loudspeaker means includes arranging loudspeaker elements based on directivity pattern characteristics of the sounds to be reproduced by the at least one loudspeaker means

88. (New) The sound system of claim 82, wherein at least one of the loudspeaker means comprises two or more loudspeaker elements, and customization of the at least one loudspeaker

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means includes selecting loudspeaker elements based on frequency characteristics of the sounds to be reproduced by the at least one loudspeaker means and arranging loudspeaker elements based on directivity pattern characteristics of the sounds to be reproduced by the at least one loudspeaker means.

89. (New) The sound system of claim 82, wherein at least one of the loudspeaker means comprises two or more loudspeaker elements and the loudspeaker elements are controlled by the dynamic controller.

90. (New) The sound system of claim 29 further comprising means for selectively enabling a user to elect to intentionally group together audio signals from two or more sound sources for playback over a common signal path.

91. (New) The sound system of claim 29 wherein two or more sound sources may be separately stored but intentionally played back over a common signal path.

92. (New) The sound system of claim 29 wherein the sound sources produce sounds having sonic characteristics and wherein two or more sound sources having similar characteristics may be separately received, converted and stored but intentionally mixed together during playback and passed through a common loudspeaker means.

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93. (New) The sound system of claim 29 wherein the sound sources produce sounds having different sonic characteristics and at least one of said amplifier means is customized according to one or more sonic characteristics of the sounds corresponding to the audio signals on its signal path.

94. (New) The sound system of claim 29 wherein the sound sources produce sounds having different sonic characteristics and each of said amplifier means is customized according to one or more sonic characteristic of the sounds corresponding to the audio signals on its signal path.

95. (New) The sound system of claim 29 wherein each of the amplifier means and loudspeaker means are under common control of the dynamic control means.

96. (New) The sound system of claim 29, wherein at least one of the amplifier means comprises more than one amplifier element in a signal path.

97. (New) The sound system of claim 96 wherein the more than one amplifier elements are customized based on characteristics of the audio signals to be amplified by the at least one amplifier means.

98. (New) The sound system of claim 96 wherein the amplifier elements are separately controllable by the dynamic control means.

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99. (New) The sound system of claim 29, wherein at least one of the amplifier means, comprises more than one group of amplifier elements.

100. (New) The sound system of claim 99 wherein the groups of amplifier elements are customized based on characteristics of the audio signals to be amplified by the at least one amplifier means.

101. (New) The sound system of claim 99 wherein the groups of amplifier elements are separately controllable by the dynamic control means.

102. (New) The sound system of claim 29, wherein at least one of the amplifier means comprises more than one amplifier element in a signal path, wherein the more than one amplifier elements are customized based on characteristics of the audio signals to be amplified by the at least one amplifier means and the amplifier elements are separately controllable by the dynamic control means.

103. (New) The sound system of claim 29, wherein at least one of the amplifier means, comprises more than one group of amplifier elements, the groups of amplifier elements are customized based on characteristics of the audio signals to be amplified by the at least one amplifier means and the groups of amplifier elements are separately controllable by the dynamic control means.

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104. (New) The sound system of claim 29, wherein at least one of the amplifier means comprises more than one amplifier element and the dynamic control means controls the at least one amplifier means by selectively turning on or off individual amplifier elements.

105. (New) The sound system of claim 29, wherein at least one of the amplifier means comprises more than one group of amplifier elements and the dynamic control means controls the at least one amplifier means by selectively turning on or off individual groups of amplifier elements or individual amplifier elements within a group.

106. (New) The sound system of claim 29, wherein at least one of the amplifier means comprises more than one amplifier element in a signal path, wherein the more than one amplifier elements are customized based on characteristics of the audio signals to be amplified by the at least one amplifier means and the amplifier elements are separately controllable by the dynamic control means and wherein the sound sources produce sounds having different sonic characteristics and each of said loudspeaker means is customized according to one or more sonic characteristic of the sounds corresponding to the audio signals on its signal path.

107. (New) The sound system of claim 29 wherein the audio signals are stored on a common recording medium.

108. (New) A method of reproducing separately stored audio signals corresponding to sounds produced by a plurality of sound sources, the method comprising the steps of:

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separately retrieving each of the audio signals;

separately amplifying each of the plurality of audio signals;

separately supplying each of the audio signals to a loudspeaker system to reproduce the original plurality of sounds; and

dynamically controlling individually each of the amplifier means and individual elements of the amplifier means to enable automatic simultaneous control over the amplifier means.

109. (New) A method of reproducing separately received audio signals corresponding to sounds produced by a plurality of sound sources, the method comprising the steps of:

separately amplifying each of the plurality of audio signals;

separately supplying each of the audio signals to a loudspeaker system to reproduce the original plurality of sounds; and

dynamically controlling individually each of the amplifier means and individual elements of the amplifier means to enable automatic simultaneous control over the amplifier means.